

## CAPITAL PERSONALS.

Richard Olney has been reappointed agent of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington for a term of six years. Secretary Taft has reduced his weight nearly 50 pounds. When he gets rid of 17 pounds more one of his ambitions will have been realized, as that will bring him down to the even 200.

Justices Harlan and McKenna, of the United States supreme court, play golf together. "There's McKenna," says Justice Harlan, commenting on his colleague's game; "he has magnificent form, but he can't hit the ball."

William C. Clark, a patrolman on the Washington (D. C.) police force, has received notice from Mexico that a gold mine in which he is interested has turned out to be a fine property, and that the stock that he owns is worth \$500,000.

When Senator J. T. Morgan was asked at what college he graduated he replied that the first time he was ever on a college campus in his life was in the civil war when, with his command, he took refuge from the Yankee bullets behind the brick walls of the College of William and Mary in Virginia.

Senator Knox has his legal residence in Pittsburg, but he owns one of the finest farms in all Pennsylvania. It is located near Valley Forge and there he spends most of his summers. From his earliest childhood Mr. Knox evinced a fondness for agricultural pursuits and his taste in that direction is still strong.

Quentin, the eleven-year-old son of the president, is a pupil at one of the public schools of Washington. He inherits considerable of his father's getting-in-the-linelight qualities and always has a ready reply. "Who can bring me some old gloves for cleaning off the blackboards?" the teacher asked the other day. "I can," promptly said Quentin. "Nick gave me two pairs."

Sensors Spooner and Knox are coming to be regarded as the Damon and Pythias of the senate. The rate question has brought them close together. One day last week Alger came suddenly out of the cloakroom and ran against Dolliver. "Where's Spooner?" asked Alger. "Do you want to find him?" said Dolliver. "Sure," replied Alger. "Well, find Knox then and you'll have Spooner."

Senator Cockrell, of Missouri, was the apple eater of the senate. Now he has retired and Senator Blackburn, of Kentucky, is making a brave effort to gain the title.

"Don't worry about me," says Senator Platt, of New York, when friends pity him about his very shaky legs. "I have a brother up in New York state who has had legs like these for 20 years and he's over 80 and doing business every day."

One of Senator Beveridge's favorite expressions is that he or she contributes to the "gayety of nations." Wise book folk say the phrase was first used by Johnson, who, in referring to the death of Garrison, said: "His death eclipsed the gayety of nations and impoverished the public stock of harmless pleasure."

Next to Dr. Andrew J. Brachfeld, of Pittsburg, who is the tallest man in the fifty-ninth congress, in height is "Cy" Sulloway, of New Hampshire, who is six feet three inches, two inches less than Brachfeld. It is said when Sulloway saw Brachfeld sworn in he sought a corner of a committee room and refused to be comforted.

"I am not one of those who think congress has deteriorated," said Justice Harlan. "I maintain that the present congress is as high grade as any congress. The Congressional Record is a remarkable publication. If a man were cast on a desert island and had the Bible, Shakespeare and the Congressional Record he would have all the reading matter he wanted."

Ex-Speaker Keifer, of Ohio, in making a speech in the house of representatives the other day remarked that the leaders, Republican and Democratic, and their followers have adopted the principle of the legal maxim, *de minimis non curat lex*—the law pays no attention to small things. A western judge gave a free translation to that maxim and said that it meant: "The law goes with head and tail up."

### Trying to Fill Him.

When the eminent Wu Ting Fang was Chinese minister at Washington, he was the guest of honor at one of the leading clubs, where he made an address, and was afterward entertained by some of the younger members, who thought it would be great fun to get the oriental diplomat intoxicated. They piled him with champagne, highballs and beer until about three a. m., by which time most of the clubmen were maudlin. Cool as a cucumber, Mr. Wu surveyed the crowd, and said, gravely, in his perfect English: "If I didn't know this club was composed entirely of gentlemen I should say that you fellows were trying to get me drunk." The session adjourned very shortly thereafter.

### Loudest Thinker.

Senator Allison of Iowa visited the White House the other day and went to see the president. Senator Allison wanted to talk on a very important matter and was much surprised to find the president's office filled with waiting state. The senator began talking to the president in a tone of voice that would have made a telephone operator ashamed. When he had finished the president blurted out the substance of the whole confidential talk in a voice heard by everyone. "We might as well carry on our confidential business with the president by writing open letters," Senator Allison declared on his return to the senate. "He is the loudest thinking man I ever talked with."

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## HORNS OF THE REVOLUTION

Charges Were Bounded on Quaint Instruments Made of Wood.

Whenever you see revolutionary soldiers dressed in regulation uniforms and blowing on brass horns you must admire the picture, but at the same time remember that no artists were in that fight. Artists make things very attractive, but not always true to life, says the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

There was not a uniformed regiment in the army. The grand old fellows fought in hunting garb or the dress they wore on the farm, store, church or tavern. So with the horns or bugles. Those that sounded Johnson's charges in the war of 1812 and the death-knell of the great Indian chief Tecumseh, were the old wooden horn of Capt. Bob Collins.

This was made of two cedar staves three-eighths of an inch in thickness. These were trimmed and so bent that when the edges joined they formed a funnel-shaped instrument four inches in diameter at the large end and tapered down to a convenient size at the mouthpiece. The two cedar staves were held in place by hoops made of cow's horn.

Whether Capt. Bob had acquired the habit of blowing a wooden horn in the army, or whether he had once been a flatboatman (who used such horns altogether) is not known. It is, however, certain that the good man sounded reveille at sunrise until his death in 1864. The neighbors for miles around saw the sunrise unheralded after Capt. Bob was called home, and his quaint instrument was never used again. It has been preserved, though, by Mrs. Anne Mayhill, his granddaughter, who cherishes it in her home in Kentucky, where it is an honored relic.

## APPRECIATED PERFORMANCE

Looked Like the Real Thing and the Company Had to Do It All Over.

The late Joseph Jefferson used to say that his career came very near being nipped in the bud in a small western town, relates Success Magazine. He at that time was a member of a small pioneer company which progressed by means of three "bull teams" from one mining camp to another. They were always heartily received by the miners and cowboys, who readily paid the five dollars in gold required to witness their performance. Mr. Jefferson was the traditional melodramatic villain, and in the third act was supposed to kidnap "the child." The supposed mother, hearing his cries, rushes upon the scene just as he is about to escape, and fires a fruitless shot from a revolver.

Upon this particular occasion all had gone well until this scene was reached, and the audience, many of whom had never before seen any kind of theatrical performance, sat as if spellbound. At the crack of the mother's revolver, however, the spell was rudely broken.

"By heaven, she missed him!" a red-shirted miner in the front row shouted, drawing his own "six-shooter" and leaping to his feet. "Round to the back door and head him off 'fore he can get a horse, boys!" he yelled, and following him, half the audience stampeded for the exit.

The excitement was finally allayed by the "mother" and the villain's appearing hand in hand before the curtain, and the manager's explanation of the situation. When the performance had been concluded, the audience insisted on paying another admission price and having an immediate repetition from beginning to end.

## RECESSION OF THE FALLS.

Rate at Which the Niagara Cataract Has Worn Its Way Backward.

The only reliable data that can form a basis for speculation as to the progress of Niagara Falls from Lake Ontario to the present site is found by comparing the two surveys that have been made of the falls, one in 1842 and the other in 1886, writes Archer Butler Hulbert, in Four-Track News. The first of these was a trigonometrical survey made by Dr. John Hall, nestor of the New York State geological survey. At the suggestion of Sir Charles Lyell, who visited the falls with him, monuments were erected at the points at which the angles were taken in order that some later surveyor would be able to find with accuracy the exact extent of the changes.

The second survey was made in 1886 by R. S. Woodward, of the United States geological survey, now director of the Carnegie institute at Washington. The result surprised the world.

Woodward's survey showed that the falls had moved 220 feet since 1842; the rate at the center had been, therefore, five feet per annum; Woodward proved that the tremendous area of five acres of rock had been precipitated from the face of the fall in the half century.

### Logical.

Two Irishmen were digging a sewer. One of them was a big, strong man about six feet four inches in height and the other was a little, puny man about four feet six inches. The foreman came along to see how the work was progressing, and noticed that one of them was doing more work than the other.

"Look here," he cried, "how is it that little Dennis Dugan, who is only half your size, is doing nearly twice as much work as you, Patrick?"

Glancing down at his partner, Pat replied: "And why shouldn't he? Ain't he nearer to it?"—Philadelphia Ledger.

## GRATEFUL FOR MISFORTUNE

Washington Official Who Could Testify to the Value of Political Defeat.

There is a pleased young man in Washington, Milton D. Purdy, assistant United States attorney general, who could give a testimonial to the value of defeat, says Success. He hails from Minnesota, and for several years was assistant in the office of R. G. Evans, the United States district attorney at St. Paul. When Mr. Evans died, Purdy became assistant district attorney, and, during the several months before the Minnesota senators agreed on a successor to Evans, did good work in the conduct of important federal prosecutions. He announced himself a candidate for the office he was filling, and believed he would be appointed, but politics and politicians decreed otherwise, and he was bitterly disappointed. He resigned and retired to practice law, but it was only a short time after he had experienced this setback that a telegram came from Attorney General Philander C. Knox, requesting him to go to Washington and call on President Roosevelt. It turned out that Knox had taken notice of the good work done by Purdy in the Minnesota cases, and as he was looking for young men to help in the engaged work of the department of justice, in the prosecution of trusts and railroads, he had taken it upon himself, to recommend him for a position which pays only \$1,000 less than the salary of the attorney general himself. The president looked Purdy over and liked him, and during the past three years he has had a chance to make some reputation for himself in the undoing of the postal fraud, the Northern Securities, and the fraudulent immigration cases. The position which he now fills is vastly more important and desirable in every way than the one which he was refused in Minnesota, being one that would be coveted by the biggest of the politicians who three years ago turned him down. He is now grateful for the misfortune he suffered.

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## GRAY TROUSERS TABOOED.

Delicate Mission of Vice President Hobart Was a Diplomatic Triumph.

When President McKinley had his first cabinet function, after he was inaugurated, a member of that cabinet—it wouldn't be fair to name him—appeared in a dinner jacket and a pair of striped gray trousers.

Everybody noticed his strange apparel, but nobody said anything about it. Next time he came in the same rig. It was serious then, relates the Saturday Evening Post.

The matter was taken up at a cabinet meeting when this member was not present. It was discussed gravely. Nobody wanted to hurt the absent member's feelings, but all thought he should wear full evening dress and should be told what the conventions prescribed. President McKinley called for volunteers. Nobody responded.

Then it was decided to ask Vice President Hobart, a man of the greatest tact, gently to tell the offending member how to dress.

Hobart took the job. He called a few mornings later. "I have a most delicate matter to discuss with you," he said. "You know we all recognize you as one of the president's closest friends. We want you to go to him for us."

"What about?" asked the flattered cabinet member.

"Why, the president has appeared at several functions in a dinner coat and striped gray trousers. Now, that isn't right. Every person at a White House function should wear full evening dress. You know how that is: spike-tailed coat, dress vest, black trousers and a white tie. We wish you would call this matter to the attention of the president in your well-known tactful way and get it straightened out."

"No, sir; I won't do it," the cabinet member replied. "You will have to do that yourself."

Mr. Hobart took the matter under advisement, and the cabinet member never wore gray trousers at a White House function after that.

### The Great Unknown.

Among the crowds of visitors in Washington the other day was a young Ohioan named Bud Keifer. Two of the sights he wanted to see were Senators Foraker and Dick, but one of these gentlemen was absent and the other too busy. The doorkeeper informed Bud that he would call out Senator Clark's secretary, George Gilliland, an Ohio man. Bud was delighted, he and Mr. Gilliland, an having been schoolmates. As they stood chatting over old times Bud was introduced to one or two senators who passed by. Then Vice President Fairbanks came along and Mr. Gilliland said: "Mr. Vice President, let me introduce Bud Keifer, of Ohio." The vice president stuck out his hand. Bud grasped it briskly and said: "Glad to meet you, sir. What's the name, please?"

### Lovely Cigar.

At the university club banquet in Washington a few nights ago, they gave Uncle Joe Cannon a cigar three feet long that may or may not have been made of tobacco. Congressman Longworth, returning to his duties in the house after his honeymoon, brought for Uncle Joe a cigar made of the best Havana tobacco and about 18 inches long. Uncle Joe took it, smelled it, turned it over and over, caressed it lovingly, and then said: "By gum, Nick, it looks good enough to put cream on and eat."

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